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Election to the Puzhathi Panchayat Board, Malabar.

* 42 *Q.*—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government did not introduce the secret ballot system in the recent election to the Puzhathi Panchayat Board in Chirakkal taluk, Malabar, even though there are more than 12,000 voters in the same Panchayat area and the income of the Board comes to about more than Rs. 10,000; and if so, the reasons for the same?

THE HON. SRI K. RAJARAM :—" It is a fact that the election to the Puzhathi Panchayat was not held by the secret ballot system as it is only a Class II Panchayat, its income during 1952–53 and previous years being very much below Rs. 10,000. Elections to Class I Panchayats only are held by secret ballot."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" സർ, 12,000 വോട്ടർമാർ ഉള്ള ഒരു പഞ്ചായത്തു ബോഡ് അതിർത്തിക്കുള്ളിൽ സീക്രട്ട് ബാലററ് സമ്പ്രദായം നടപ്പാക്കാത്തതിന്റെ ഫലമായി തിരഞ്ഞെടുപ്പിൽതന്നെ വമ്പിച്ച തകരാറുകളും കള്ള വോട്ടുകളും നടന്നിട്ടുണ്ടു എന്നു് ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട മന്ത്രി അറിയുമോ ? ഇതു സംബന്ധിച്ചു വല്ല ആക്ഷേപങ്ങളും ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട മന്ത്രിക്കു കിട്ടീട്ടുണ്ടോ ? ".

THE HON. SRI K. RAJARAM :—" Sir, I have already said, and it has been discussed once before on the floor of this House, that the policy of the Government is to have secret ballot for First-class Panchayats and open ballot (show of hands) for Second-class Panchayats. Therefore, this election is in accordance with the policy of the Government, which was announced on the floor of this House."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" May I know, Sir, whether the classification of Panchayats into Class I and Class II is made by the Government of their own accord or only when this is brought to their notice? "

THE HON. SRI K. RAJARAM :—" No, Sir. This is made according to the census figures and the revenue figures, which are examined and submitted by the Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards."

Stocking of pumpsets at Taluk Headquarters.

* 43 *Q.*—SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state whether the Government have received any suggestion recently from Malabar District Food Production Committee to the effect that pumpsets owned by the department may be kept at the Taluk Headquarters so that they may be more easily and quickly available to cultivators in times of need; and if so, the action taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" The answer is in the affirmative. The District Agricultural Officers are being instructed to arrange to keep a few pumpsets at the Taluk Headquarters wherever feasible."

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Dr. K. B. MENON :—" Sir, how many pumpsets are available for the whole of Malabar? "

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I would like to have notice, Sir. But, I may give this information to the hon. Member. In Shoranur Division, there are three pumpsets in the Palghat taluk, three in Alatur, four in Perintalamanna, four in Manjeri, and four in Ponnani. In the other divisions also, at least one pumpset has been supplied to each of the taluk headquarters."

Sri K. M. SEETHI :—" Sir, may I know, whether the Government have received representations about the delay in supplying these pumpsets to agriculturists on their applications? "

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Notice, Sir."

Sri M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Sir, in a meeting of the District Food Production Committee, after this resolution had been passed, it was given to us that the proposal to keep the pumpset at taluk headquarters had been vetoed by the Government. May I know when that circular was issued? "

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" It is not correct to say that the Government have vetoed the proposal. As soon as the Food Production Committee passed the resolution, arrangements were made to locate pumpsets in various taluk headquarters."

Opening of a Munsif's Court at Perambra.

* 44 *Q.*—Sri P. KUNHIRAMA KIDAV : Will the Hon. the Minister for Law be pleased to state whether the Hon. the Minister has received any memorandum from the public of Perambra and adjoining villages in Kurumbranad taluk for opening a Munsif's Court at Perambra; and if so, what action has been taken?

The Hon. Sri K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAIR :—" In April 1950, a memorandum was received from the public of Perambra requesting the opening of a District Munsif's Court at the place. The Government after consultation with the High Court, decided that the question of establishing a District Munsif's Court at Perambra might be deferred for the time being."

Action taken on the suggestions made by Members in the Assembly.

* 45 *Q.*—Sri K. R. VISWANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the grievances mentioned by the Members of the House from time to time in respect of their constituencies are extracted from the Assembly debates and sent to the concerned authorities for redressal; and

(*b*) if not, why not?